

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAMAKO 03996 291226Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 (ISO) W

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FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2547

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMAKO 3996

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E.O. 11652: NGDS

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, AFDB, PR, ML, MASS

SUBJECT: TRIP BY TREASURY/CONGRESSIONAL GROUP:
REQUEST FOR INSTRUCTIONS

REF: A) BAMAKO 3880; B) STATE 254008

1. WHILE WE WELCOME PROPOSED VISIT BY TREASURY/
CONGRESSIONAL GROUP, WE ARE IN MIDST OF A DISTINCT
CHILL IN OUR RELATIONS WITH MALI AND UNLESS OUR
VISITORS REFLECT ACCURATELY THIS STATE OF RELATIONS,
THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR EFFORTS HERE WILL SUFFER.
SINCE THE ADVENT OF THE CHILL IN OUR RELATIONS WITH MALI
FOLLOWING THEIR VOTE AGAINST US ON PUERTO RICO IN THE
UNITED NATIONS LAST AUGUST 21, THE MALIANS SURELY
KNOW, PROBABLY THROUGH THEIR AMERICAN SUPPLIERS,
THAT MUNITIONS CONTROL LICENSES ARE NOT BEING
GRANTED BY STATE (PM/MC) FOR SALE OF ITAR ITEMS TO MALI.
IT IS ALSO OBVIOUS TO THEM NOW THAT OTHER MILITARY
AID ITEMS HAVE BEEN STOPPED.

2. WE HAVE MADE OUR DISPLEASURE KNOWN AT ALL LEVELS.
THE PROBLEM NOW, AS I SEE IT, IS TO GET TO PRESIDENT
TRAORE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE RULING NATIONAL
COMMITTEE OF LIBERATION AND PRESENT THE POSITIVE SIDE
OF OUR RELATIONSHIP. TO THE MALIANS THAT MEANS AID.
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AND, AS LONG AS THE TREASURY/CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

IS COMING TO BAMAKO NOV. 24, TO LOOK INTO POSSIBLE FUNDING FOR THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK ANYWAY, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE VERY MUCH IN OUR INTERESTS IF I WERE INSTRUCTED TO SEEK AN APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT TRAORE FOR THE ENTIRE DELEGATION. HE WOULD PROBABLY THANK US FOR PAST AID, DESCRIBE MALI'S PLIGHT, AS WELL AS MALI'S OWN EFFORTS, AND MAKE HIS ALWAYS COMPELLING PITCH FOR MORE AID.

3. THE LEADER OF OUR DELEGATION WOULD THANK THE PRESIDENT FOR HIS KIND WORDS, STRESS THE STRONG BONDS THAT BIND OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND THE THIRD WORLD, AND DESCRIBE OUR OWN POLICY ON AID, PARTICULARLY ITS HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS. HE WOULD THEN MAKE THE POINT THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND MALI'S ATTACKS ON OUR SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE PUERTO RICAN ISSUE AND MALI'S IMPLICIT ENCOURAGEMENT TO TERRORIST GROUPS WHICH DO NOT REPRESENT PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE.

4. I AM ASKING FOR TWO THINGS: INSTRUCTIONS TO ME TO SEEK AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE PRESIDENT FOR THE DELEGATION; AND INSTRUCTIONS TO THE DELEGATION TO RESPOND ALONG THE LINES SKETCHED ABOVE. WE WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO RESPOND TO A REQUEST FROM YOU FOR TALKING POINTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS.

5. IF WE LET THIS OPPORTUNITY SLIP BY, I FEAR THE MALIANS WILL DISCOUNT OUR EFFORTS HERE TO BRING THEM AROUND ON THE PUERTO RICAN ISSUE AS SIMPLY A REPETITION OF PAST DEMARCHES THAT THEY NEED NOT TAKE SERIOUSLY.
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